

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 975

By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to name the bridge spanning I-240 on Walnut Grove Road in Shelby County in honor of Morris H. Fair.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges in honor of those exemplary public servants who have contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late Morris H. Fair, whose recent death saddened the whole of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, born in Tyronza, Arkansas, Mr. Fair worked at his father's service station before serving in the United States Air Force. After his service in the Air Force, he graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1956; and

WHEREAS, a founder of United Municipal Investment Corporation, Morris Fair later became a senior Vice President of Union Planters Bank after the company merged with United Municipal Investment in 1988; and

WHEREAS, a natural leader, Mr. Fair was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Shelby County Commission in 1996; a straightforward and charismatic politician who never allowed party affiliation to interfere with sound public policy, he was elected to serve a full term on the commission in 1998, a affirmation by the citizens of Shelby County of the outstanding service that Morris Fair made paramount throughout his tenure as a commissioner; and

WHEREAS, as a politician, Morris Fair was a rarity; in addition to being thoughtfully bipartisan, he was also a very good listener. He possessed the nearly bygone talent of giving a person or topic his complete attention; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fair as a Shelby County Commissioner, Mr. Fair was a key leader and financial adviser on two of the largest construction projects undertaken by the local government:

a comprehensive renovation of the Memphis Cook Convention Center and the construction of FedExForum; and

WHEREAS, after his meritorious service as a Shelby County Commissioner, Mr. Fair served as a Tennessee Lottery Board member and the public finance consultant for Duncan-Williams Incorporated; his invaluable service on the Lottery Board ensured the initial success of the lottery scholarship program and helped establish the means for providing access to higher education for the State's children; and

WHEREAS, his concern for the causes he championed was so great that he continued to contribute his time and energy after being diagnosed with cancer, working for the public good until his final hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, in appreciation of his meritorious service to the citizens of Memphis, Shelby County, and Tennessee, this General Assembly proposes to name the bridge which crosses I-240 on Walnut Grove Road in Shelby County to permanently commemorate Morris H. Fair's bountiful life of purpose and commitment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the bridge spanning I-240 on Walnut Grove Road in Shelby County is hereby designated the "Morris H. Fair Memorial Bridge."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such bridge as the "Morris H. Fair Memorial Bridge."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the County of Shelby either (1) remits the estimated cost of the erection of such signs to the

Department of Transportation within one (1) year of the effective date of this resolution, or (2) manufactures and erects such signs pursuant to state and federal guidelines and as approved by the Department. If electing option (1), the County of Shelby shall make payment of the estimated cost prior to any expenditure by the State for manufacture or installation of such signs. The Department shall return any unused portion of the estimated costs to the County of Shelby within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, the County of Shelby shall remit an amount equal to the difference in such costs to the Department within thirty (30) days of receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of transportation.